THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There has been some decline in the supply of medicines to the CGHS due to non-finalisation of formulary.

To overcome the situation, the CGHS had appointed authorised local chemists for supply of medicines to the CGHS beneficiaries. CGHS has also prepared a list of 65 commonly indented medicines in addition to the 138 generic medicines available in the formulary of the Government of NCT of Delhi. As per the list containing 203 drug items prepared by CGHS, it was decided by the Government to procure the medicines through Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC) which is a Government of India Undertaking. The Government has also approved formulary for generic drugs of the Government of NCT of Delhi for procurement of drugs.

Any drug prescribed by the Govt. Specialists, not available in the dispensary, is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the authorised local chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary.

Health Insurance

1899. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that health insurance is turning out to be the fastest growing segment in the non-life insurance industry with an average growth of 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the action Government are taking to ensure that this security is available and affordable to the lower section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The four public sector general insurance companies have been selling "Mediclaim Insurance Policy". The information relating to number of persons covered under mediclaim policy and the premium income therefrom during the past five years is given below:

Year	Number of persons covered	Amount of Premium (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	27,83,862	215.70
1998-99	35,34,417	271.74
1999-2000	46,94,129	380.41
2000-01	61,05,977	518.99
2001-02	77,84,491	742.05

(b) The Government has announced the National Health Policy 2002 which envisages a social health insurance scheme funded by the Government and with service delivery through the private sector to be introduced on a pilot basis in a limited number of representative districts. The policy also encourages the setting up of private insurance instruments for increasing the scope of the coverage of the secondary and tertiary sector under private health insurance package. The four public general insurance compaines have also introduced a low cost mediclaim policy called "Jan Arogya". The scheme is primarily meant for the larger segment of the population who cannot afford the high cost of medical treatment. The limit of cover per person is Rs. 5,000/- per annum.

Eradication of Malaria

1900. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering total eradication of Malaria in the country;

(b)if so, the effective measures taken in 2002-2003 alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering any other effective medicines for the eradication of Malaria; and

(d) whether Government are considering ICON as the effective medicine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Malaria is a vector-borne disease and its eradication is not technically feasible.